

THE ROSARY PILGRIM



MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

I MAKE PROFESSION AND PROMISE OBEDIENCE...

UNTIL DEATH!

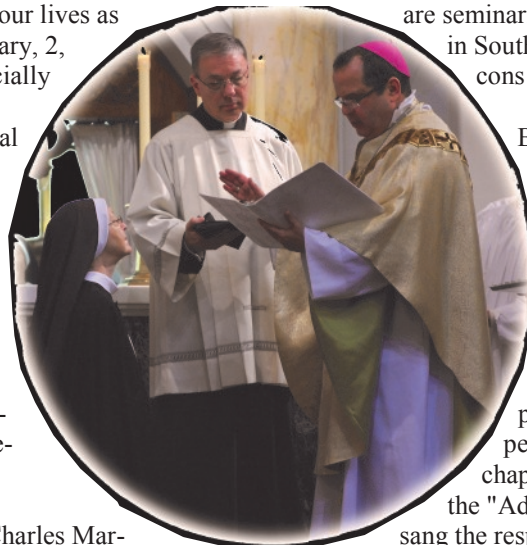
We often describe a special event in our lives as a "day made in heaven" and February, 2, 2012, Feast of the Presentation, was especially so as Sister Mary Amata deepened her spousal union with Christ and her perpetual holocaust through solemn profession as a Nun of the Order of Preachers.

Bishop Manuel Cruz, D.D., our regional bishop, was the principal celebrant. Also in the sanctuary was Fr. Peter Stravinskias, who served as Master of Ceremonies; Father Gregory Salomone, OP, Father Roger Landry, and Father Kieran Fergus, OP concelebrated. Deacon Robert Devine served as deacon.

We were thrilled to have Richard Sofie, Charles Martin, Glen Evers, Julio Barrios and Brancker John serve Holy Mass and the Rite of Profession. The last three mentioned servers

are seminarians at Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange, NJ and will be ordained as deacons in May!

Because this was also Candlemas Day we began the Mass with our traditional procession. For the very first time all the nuns came to the back of the chapel to lead the procession. After, they went back inside the enclosure except for Sister Mary Amata, Sister Denise Marie, Prioress and Sister Mary Catharine, Novice Mistress. We all enjoyed processing down the chapel aisle and experiencing the wonderful acoustics of our chapel as the chantresses sang the verses of the "Adorn your bridal chamber, Zion" while we sang the responses to each line. After the Second Reading we sang the *Laetabundus* Sequence as is proper to the Order of Preachers.



The Rite of Profession began after the Gospel with the moving "What do you seek?" as Sr. Mary Amata lay prostrate on the sanctuary floor. As at each stage of formation she once again affirmed her desire for "God's mercy and yours." Bishop Cruz then delivered a powerful homily speaking about the nature of this request and the contemplative life.

After the homily Sister Denise Marie once again questioned Sister Mary Amata: "Do you wish to make profession according to the Constitutions of the Nuns of the Order of Preachers?" "Do you wish to advance in the love of God and neighbor, expending



yourself entirely in winning souls; do you wish to be totally consecrated to God to announce prophetically the blessings of Christ with your hidden fecundity; do you wish to persevere in prayer with Mary the Mother of Jesus." To each question Sister Mary Amata responded: "I do wish and desire it, with the help of God and yours!"

Then came the dramatic moment of the Litany of the Saints as Sister lay cruciform on the sanctuary floor. Finally the moment arrived. Placing her hands into those of Sister Denise Marie her prioress, Sister Mary Amata made profession of obedience until death.

The blessing and imposition of the veil followed. We had told Bishop Cruz earlier that only the prioress veils the newly professed but he wanted to help and it was a rather humorous moment which he commented on later, apologizing for "being disobedient". We suspect that Bishop Cruz was surprised at how



many straight pins it takes to keep a nun together! During the veiling the beautifully haunting *Amo Christum* was sung.

Sister Mary Amata then received the blessed ring "the ring of divine faith, given in the name of the most Holy Trinity." She was exhorted to "be faithful to Jesus, your Spouse, so that you may come to the wedding feast of eternal joy!"

Bishop Cruz then spontaneously led Sister Mary Amata inside the Nuns' choir so that the exchange of peace could be given. The Mass continued.

We thank God for this beautiful day and for the presence of so many wonderful friends. We are also so grateful to those who made this day possible. Particularly we want to thank Corey Huber for taking the photos and to Robert Core and everyone at Suburban Wholesale for the beautiful flowers that adorned the altar and side altars and graced the tables.



FIRST PROFESSION OF SR. MARY MAGDALENE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, O.P.



On December 8, 2011, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Sister Mary Magdalene made First Profession as a Nun of the Order of Preachers. Although First Profession is for three years in the heart one's yes is forever.

Top: Sister Mary Magdalene makes profession in the hands of Sister Denise Marie, O.P., prioress. Top Left: Sister Mary Magdalene with her mother, Kathleen Prewitt. Bottom Left: Sister's scapular, sign of Our Lady's Maternal protection, is blessed by Father Andrew Hofer, O.P. Bottom Right: Sister Mary Catharine, O.P., novice mistress and Sister Denise Marie, O.P. veil the newly professed with the black veil.



Thanks to the generosity of a priest friend and Mr. J. R. Prisco we were able renovate a shed inside our enclosure as a little hermitage for the Sisters to "go into the desert" on their monthly retreat day and yearly private retreat.

Although as Dominicans we place a lot of emphasis on our life of fraternal communion, solitude and silence are essential for us to deeply live our mission of prayer and penance as Nuns of the Order of Preachers. Although our monastery chapel is very large, the actual living quarters of the monastery are quite small and space is at a premium. The sisters are so grateful for the opportunity to go apart and sit at the feet of Jesus, like Mary, pondering the Word of God, so that it will be fruitful and accomplish those things for which it was sent. (cf. Is. 55:10)

I WILL LEAD HER INTO THE DESERT AND SPEAK TO HER HEART (Hosea 2:14)



Dominican Nuns
MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
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SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 2, 2012, is the day when you want to come for the **FIRST** Rosary Shrine Yard and Bake Sale. Our “junk” and items donated by friends of the monastery will be available to become **YOUR** treasures!



CLOISTER CLEARANCE!

MONASTERY MUNCHIES!

The Nuns will be baking delicious breads, cookies, cakes and there will be special items from the Sisters who make our Seignadou Soap products!

SEIGNADOU SOAPS

WHEN: Saturday, June 2, 2012 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

WHERE: Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary
543 Springfield Ave., Summit, NJ
908.273.1228
info@summitdominicans.org

RAIN OR SHINE!